Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 09861 231955Z

70
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
---------- 029524
O 231904Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8546

S E C R E T PARIS 09861

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, EG, BEXP, FR, US
SUBJECT: FRENCH INTEREST IN SUEZ CANAL MINE CLEARANCE
PARTICIPATION

REF: STATE 81493 (CAIRO 2483)

1. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE CONSIDERATIONS OF WHICH WE IN PARIS ARE NOT AWARE THAT AFFECT ANY DECISION ON HOW TO HANDLE THE FRENCH REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SUEZ CANAL MINE CLEARING PROJECT. WE ACCEPT THAT THE FRENCH COULD MAKE NO USEFUL TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT AND THAT FRENCH PARTICIPATION WOULD COMPLICATE MATTERS AND GIVE THE FRENCH AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MISCHIEF-MAKING. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS USEFUL TO OFFER FOR CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON SOME THOUGHTS WHICH MIGHT FAVOR GIVING THE FRENCH A PIECE OF THE ACTION.

2. SINCE THE OCTOBER WAR, THE FRENCH HAVE RESENTED THEIR NON-ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH THEY ASCRIBE IN LARGE MEASURE TO US INFLUENCE. SUBSEQUENT FRENCH CARPING AT OUR NEGOTIATING EFFORTS STEMS IN PART FROM THAT RESENTMENT, AS WELL AS FROM MORE BASIC POLICY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US AND FRANCE OVER THE MIDDLE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 09861 231955Z

EAST. DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN FRENCH FOREIGN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

POLICY STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS ON MOST MATTERS, INCLUDING EC-ARAB RELATIONS AND THE HOPED-FOR FRENCH ROLE AT GENEVA, HAVE BEEN LOW-KEY. A DECISION TO ALLOW THE FRENCH TO PARTICIPATE IN NIMBUS STAR, EVEN IN A LIMITED FASHION, COULD HELP IN CREATING THE SORT OF ATMOSPHERE WHICH MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT, SHOULD IT SO DESIRE, TO CONTINUE THE CURRENT LOW-KEYED APPROACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND EVEN TO ASSUME A MORE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS US PEACE-MAKING EFFORTS. SUCH AN ATTITUDE (ALTHOUGH BY NO MEANS ASSURED) WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR OBJECTIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST NO MATTER WHAT PROGRESS IS MADE TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. IT MIGHT ALSO BE HELPFUL IF MOVEMENT TOWARDS AN ACCORD SHOULD FALTER AND WE FIND OURSELVES IN A CRUNCH SITUATION WITH THE SOVIETS.

3. MOREOVER, BY PROVIDING A POSITIVE EXAMPLE FOR US-FRENCH COOPERATIVE ACTIONS IN AN AREA OF GENUINE IMPORTANCE TO GOF, WE MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER FOR NEW GOF TO ADOPT A LESS ABRASIVE, POSSIBLY MORE COOPERATIVE STANCE ON US-EC NINE ISSUES, E.G. QUESTION OF ADEQUATE PROCEDURES FOR US-EC CONSULTATION, ALTHOUGH AGAIN THIS IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN. IN RECENT PAST FRENCH HAVE VIEWED, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, US-EUROPEAN COOPERATION AS ONE-WAY STREET TO ADVANTAGE OF US. THIS PERCEPTION HAS SERVED TO STIFFEN THEIR NATURAL DISINCLINATION TO VIEW US INTENTIONS IN ANY OTHER THAN MALEVOLENT LIGHT. US READINESS TO ACCEPT FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE OPERATION WOULD BE STEP TOWARD TEMPERING THAT FRENCH PERCEPTION. AT SAME TIME, IT COULD BE USED TO DEMONSTRATE TO EC EIGHT THAT US IS PREPARED TO GIVE MEANING TO THE CONCEPT OF "PARTNERSHIP", RATHER THAN STIFF-ARMING PLEAS OF THE EUROPEANS FOR A PIECE OF THE ACTION IN AREAS WHERE THEY SEE THEIR VITAL INTERESTS AT STAKE.

4. THUS, FROM A PARIS PERSPECTIVE, WE SEE VALUE IN PERMITTING FRENCH PARTICIPATION (UNDER US OPERATIONAL CONTROL), BUT RECOGNIZE THAT A BROADER PERSPECTIVE COULD DICTATE A DIFFERENT DECISION.

SECRET

SECRET

IRWIN

SECRET

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, EXPLOSIVES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERNATIONAL CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS09861
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740095-0325
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740421/aaaaasog.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 81493 (CAIRO 2483)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH INTEREST IN SUEZ CANAL MINE CLEARANCE PARTICIPATION
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, BEXP, EG, FR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005